

RTM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

Meeting called to order on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 6:40pm at the Groton Senior Center Classroom 1 by Chairperson, Rep. Cutter Oliver.

Committee members present: Reps. Autumn Hanscom, Bruce McDermott, Scott Newsome, Cutter Oliver and Judith Strode.

Committee members absent: Sheila Perry.

Also present:

- Paige Bronk - Economic and Community Development Manager
- John Burt - Groton Town Manager
- Pete Chappell - Pete's Marine Services
- Wendy Connal - Director of Bill Memorial Library
- Michael Gilman Jr. - Mystic River Ambulance
- Marge Fondulas - Director of Human Services
- Chester Kanieck - VP of Groton Ambulance Association
- Christine Johnson – Director of the Mystic Noank Library
- Steven Mansfield - Director of Health, Iedge Light Health District
- Kevin Quinn - Manager of Inspection Services
- John Reiner - Director of Planning and Development Services
- Betty Anne Reiter – Director of Groton Public Library

Quorum declared

Account #1001 - Legislative Policy (p.59)

\$54,955

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Hanscom /Rep. Strode

Discussion: none

Vote in favor of \$54,955: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Account #1010 - Executive Management (p. 72)

\$346,869

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Hanscom /Rep. McDermott

Discussion: none

Vote in favor of \$346,869: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Account #1006 - Legal Services (p. 69)

\$300,000

Motion to approve/second: Rep. McDermott /Rep. Strode

Discussion: John Burt stated that this budget has decreased due to cost cutting measures and anticipated increase in delinquent tax collections.

Vote in favor of \$300,000: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Account #1092 - Fire Districts PILOT (p. 189)

\$246,000

Motion to approve/second: Rep. McDermott /Rep. Strode

Discussion: none

Vote in favor of \$246,000: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Account #1007 - Regional Agencies (p. 176) 10070, 10071, 10072, 10073

\$132,034

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Strode /Rep. Hanscom

Discussion: Rep Strode and other committee members noted that SEAT bus ridership seems to be very low. The committee is very interested in the latest ridership number statistics.

Vote in favor of \$132,034: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Account #1046 - Planning & Development Services (p. 135)

\$1,323,531

Motion to approve/second: Rep. McDermott /Rep. Strode

Discussion: The committee was joined by Paige Bronk, Economic and Community Development Manager, Kevin Quinn, Manager of Inspection Services and John Reiner, Director of Planning and Development Services. They provided an overview of their work to bring new businesses and residents to the town of Groton, including new promotional materials, website, signage etc.

Vote in favor of \$1,323,531: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Account #1051 - Human Services (p. 140)

\$610,523

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Hanscom /Rep. Strode

Discussion: Marge Fondulas, Director of Human Services presented an overview of her department and a sheet listing the number of household and clients served each year (see attached).

→ Rep. Scott Newsome arrived

Vote in favor of \$610,523: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Did not vote: Rep. Newsome

Account #1054 - Health & Service Agencies, (p. 179)

(Cost Centers 0 – 9A)

Cost Center 10540 LedgeLight Health

\$289,354

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Oliver /Rep. Strode

Discussion: The Director of Health, Steven Mansfield provided an overview and explained that the per capita rate will remain at \$7.37 (same as last year).

Vote in favor of \$289,354: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Cost Center 10541 VNA (School Health)

\$1,081,278

Motion to approve/second: Rep. McDermott /Rep. Strode

Discussion: The committee was joined by Marge Fondulas, Director of Human Services. Committee members asked if there is a state statute for the ratio/ number of nurses required in school. Marge Fondulas did explain that the number of special needs kids has grown significantly, (particularly with asthma and diabetes).

Vote in favor of \$1,081,278: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Cost Center 10542 VNA (Health Promo)

\$33,968

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Hanscom /Rep. McDermott

Discussion: none

Vote in favor of \$33,968: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Cost Center 10543 Groton Ambulance

\$52,976

Motion to approve/second: Rep. McDermott /Rep. Strode

Discussion: Chester Kanieck, the VP of Groton Ambulance Association was present. The committee commended him on a job well done and encouraged the Association to provide more training and CPR classes to the public.

Vote in favor of \$52,976: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Cost Center 10545 Service Agencies

(2 motions)

Motion to approve/second (\$68,657): Rep. Oliver /Rep. Strobe

Discussion: The town council voted to increase this amount from \$63,657 to \$68,657 to restore funding for the Symphony Orchestra field trip for Groton students. Rep. Oliver believes we should keep this additional \$5,000 to provide Groton students with this important opportunity. Rep. Hanscom agrees this is an important opportunity but it should not be funded by the town of Groton.

Vote in favor of \$68,657: Rep. Oliver

Opposed: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome and Strobe

Abstaining: none

Motion to approve/second (\$63,657): Rep. Hanscom /Rep. Newsome

Vote in favor of \$63,657: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome and Strobe

Opposed: Rep. Oliver

Abstaining: none

→ The committee recommends lowering this back down to \$63,657

Cost Center 10547 Marine Sewage Disposal

\$19,980

Motion to approve/second: Rep. McDermott /Rep. Oliver

Discussion: The committee was joined by Pete Chappell of Pete's Marine Services. Rep. McDermott noted that the water quality seems to have improved over the years but is curious if there is water quality testing data to back that up.

Vote in favor of \$19,980: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strobe

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Cost Center 10548 Mystic River Ambulance

\$25,000

Motion to approve/second: Rep. McDermott /Rep. Newsome

Discussion: Michael Gilman Jr. of Mystic River Ambulance answered a few questions regarding their new building location and its certificate of occupancy.

Vote in favor of \$25,000: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strobe

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Cost Center 10549 Mystic / Noank Library

(2 motions)

Motion to approve/second (\$100,000): Rep. Newsome /Rep. Hanscom

Discussion: The committee was joined by Christine Johnson, Director of the Mystic Noank Library. She explained that funding of \$100,000 would probably require the library to close at least one day per

week. Rep. Newsome and Rep. Hanscom feel that \$100,000 is sufficient. Rep. Hanscom notes that the library self-funds over 60% of their budget through a robust amount donations and grants. Perhaps further seek out additional grants to cover the remaining \$25,000.

Vote in favor of \$100,000: Reps. Hanscom and Newsome

Opposed: Reps. McDermott, Oliver and Strode

Abstaining: none

Motion to approve/second (\$125,000): Rep. McDermott/ Rep. Oliver

Discussion: Reps. McDermott, Strode and Oliver feel that it would be detrimental to area residents if we close the Mystic Noank Library one day a week.

Vote in favor of \$125,000: Reps. McDermott, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: Reps. Hanscom and Newsome

Abstaining: none

→ The committee recommends raising to \$125,000

Cost Center 10549A Bill Memorial Library

\$23,000

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Hanscom /Rep. Newsome

Discussion: Wendy Connal, Director of the Bill Memorial Library provided an update on their robust programming for all ages. The original request was for \$23,000 and the Town Manager brought this down to \$18,700. The Town Council then raised this back up to \$23,000 to prevent any staff layoffs.

Vote in favor of \$23,000 Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Account #7320 - Human Services Assistance Fund (p. 144)

\$10,000

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Hanscom /Rep. Oliver

Discussion: none

Vote in favor of \$10,000: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Account #1063 - Groton Public Library (p. 148)

\$1,663,646

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Newsome /Rep. Hanscom

Discussion:

Vote in favor of \$1,663,646: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

CIP 7) Technology

Q) Library & GMTV Servers Replace/Upgrade (p. 231)

\$49,000

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Newsome /Rep. Oliver

Discussion:

Vote in favor of \$49,000: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

R) Town Meeting Room AV/Presentation Equip (p. 232)

\$18,000

Motion to approve/second: Rep. Newsome /Rep. McDermott

Discussion:

Vote in favor of \$18,000 Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Account #3310 - Borrow IT CT (p. 152)

\$18,300

Motion to approve/second: Rep. McDermott /Rep. Strode

Discussion: none

Vote in favor of \$18,300: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Motion to adjourn made by Rep. Oliver, seconded by Newsome

Vote in favor: Reps. Hanscom, McDermott, Newsome, Oliver and Strode

Opposed: none

Abstaining: none

Meeting adjourned at: 9:50pm

Submitted by: Autumn Hanscom

Chair: Cutter Oliver